

## **SOC committee report regarding proposed planner for 2017 November Classic**

This document includes the text of the report read out to the SCOA committee during their discussions on who should be the planned for the 2017 November Classic/Southern Champs.

'Firstly, Nick Bosbury has the backing of the SOC committee as our candidate to plan the 2017 November Classic. Nick took a considerable amount of time away from the sport before getting involved again some 10 years ago. Since then he has taken on numerous roles including mapping, planning and mentoring as well as Chairman of our club.

Nick has planned a level C event on Acres Down and also the Level B Compass Sport cup event in 2014. Only weeks before the event was due to take place he had the middle of the map made Out of Bounds. Nick was able, at very short notice, to re-plan all his courses. With an excellent Start and Finish close together and providing a Spectator finish where everyone could cheer in their team mates Nick created a real atmosphere of excitement at the event. He also produced enjoyable and fair but challenging courses fitting for the CSC competition.

He has also acted as mentor on more than one occasion helping some members planning their first events.

Nick has shown he is keen to gain experience where needed. He organised this year's November Classic and has taken on the planning of another level B event the CSC in March 2016. Although he did not compete Nick was at the Scottish 6 Days, WOC this year. Where he had the chance to observe the proceedings and view numerous courses on all the differing terrain. He also attended the British Champ in the Lakes and is well abreast of the rules regulations and all the developments within the sport in recent years.

Nick has also taken on several mapping projects and produced good quality maps. He mapped a considerable area of the November Classic map 2013; New Copse & Penny wood. He also updated Farley Mount for the 2015 Summer Series and is extending the mapping of Farley Mount for future events. Apart from this while mentoring Olwen for an event at Millyford Bridge Nick made numerous updates to the map where required.

During his time as Chair he had to deal with the potentially damaging November Classic that was cancelled. The way Nick dealt with this situation was commendable. All our dealings were transparent and carried out in a timely fashion. SOC emerged with a great deal of credit for the way we as a club handled the aftermath, much to Nick's credit. The club also bounced back from what could have been a very financially damaging situation.

Nick has not participated at events in recent years for a number of reasons. An old injury restricts his ability to run. He has also had some health problems, which have taken several years to be stabilized. Yet despite not being able to compete himself he has been very supportive of all that the club has done, attending almost all of our club events.

He has always taken an interest in viewing maps and courses of events that others in the club have participated in. His comments on courses is often incisive in dissecting what makes a good leg and why.

All this along with his experience at home and abroad in his prime gives him a great deal of knowledge to bring to the planners role.

No one has taken the trouble to talk directly to Nick on any of the issues presented as reasons why he cannot plan a level 'A' event. Decisions are being made by people who do not know Nick or his understanding of the sport. We at SOC do know Nick and believe firmly that he is capable of planning the 2017 November Classic.

We would put an assistant planner in place to aid Nick and a strong forest team to help carry the load. As we always do at our big events.'

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